

**MINUTES OF THE
RETIREMENT AND INDEPENDENT ENTITIES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 450, State Capitol, State Capitol Complex

January 19, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Don Ipson, Chair
 Rep. Gage Froerer, Vice Chair
 Sen. Curtis Bramble
 Sen. Karen Mayne
 Sen. Stuart Reid
 Sen. Daniel Thatcher
 Rep. Brad Daw
 Rep. Susan Duckworth
 Rep. Wayne Harper
 Rep. Lynn Hemingway
 Rep. Brad Last
 Rep. Merlynn Newbold
 Rep. Mark Wheatley

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Dan Liljenquist
 Sen. Luz Robles

STAFF PRESENT: Rich Amon, Fiscal Analyst
 Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst
 Karen Mitchell, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and copy of handouts are filed with committee minutes.

Rep. Ipson called the meeting to order at 7:04 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Branble moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2010. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Duckworth, Rep. Harper, and Rep. Newbold were absent for the vote.

Rep. Ipson asked the two presenting agencies to explain to the committee their mission and history, statutory authority, metrics and effective measures, resources provided by their budget, and current issues.

Department of Human Resource Management

Jeff Herring, Executive Director, assisted by Letty Debenham, Financial Director, provided the committee with handouts showing the benchmarks and major accomplishments of the Department and reviewed them with the committee. He stated that the consolidation of the various departments had increased efficiency in rates. He expressed concern regarding future budget cuts and the effects it would have on his department.

Career Service Review Office

Bob Thompson, Administrator, stated that his office handles the various employee grievances, which gives the employee a fair and neutral hearing. He explained that there are only two employees in this office, he and his legal secretary, and budget cuts would mean a reduction in their ability to hear grievances.

Mr. Thompson responded to questions from the committee. Sen. Mayne asked if the streamlining of the office had hurt employees needing to air their grievances. Rep. Hemmingway wanted to know about the discipline steps necessary to file a grievance.

Rep. Wheatley asked about the number of cases heard by the office in a year. Mr. Thompson stated that grievances had declined over the last few years had increased this last year. He speculated that there may be further increases in grievance hearings if budget cuts are made.

Rep. Froerer voiced concern over the cost of filing a grievance. Mr. Thompson explained that the costs involved are not paid by the employee, the employee only pays for transcription costs.

Rep. Ipson thanked the Department Directors for their presentations and turned the time over to the Fiscal Analyst.

Gary Ricks, Fiscal Analyst, provided the committee with a handout "Options for Eliminating the Structural Deficit". Mr. Ricks explained the 10% level of reduction for the departments. The analyst emphasized that this was an option for the committee to consider.

Rep. Ipson recommended that Mr. Herring and Mr. Thompson discuss ways to cut their budgets with the analysts before the next meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Ipson adjourned the meeting at 7:53 a.m.

Sen. Dan Liljenquist, Chair

Rep. Don Ipson, Chair